



**PATENT**

#9A  
3/20/04

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/859,609  
Filing Date: May 17, 2001  
Applicant: Eiichi Naito et al.  
Group-Art Unit: 2177  
Examiner: Sathyanarayan Pannala  
Title: Information Retrieval System  
Attorney Docket: 5077-000043

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Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 24, 2003, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

Applicant hereby petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a two month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action and includes a fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) with this response for such extension of time.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.